

GOD'S PROMISE

Joel 2:23, 28
Zech. 10:1
Psa. 104:16a
John 14:16
John 15:26
John 16:13
John 7:38
Luke 24:49
Acts 1:8
Acts 2:4
Acts 8:17
Acts 10:44, 46
Acts 19:6
James 5:7
Ezek. 47:1
Zech. 14:8
Rev. 22:1

GOD'S COMMAND

Luke 24:49
Eph. 5:18

"... Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18



The Church of God Evangel

CLEVELAND, TENN.

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REQUESTS

PRAY FOR:

My healing.—Naomi Franklin, Rt. 5, Tifton, Ga.

My body to be healed.—Martha Mongold, Upper Tract, W. Va.

The complete healing of my body.—Mrs. Leroy Altman, Rt. 3, Baxley, Ga.

The healing of my husband and me; my children.—Mrs. Ernest Kennedy, c/o Dibert Building, Ward 178, New Orleans, La.

My brother's healing; my son overseas; my healing.—Dottie Merritt, Rt. 4, Elizabethton, Tenn.

The healing of my body of a stomach and heart ailment.—Mrs. Ruth Hines, 124 W. Liberty St., Cincinnati 10, Ohio.

Me to be healed.—B. V. McIntyre, Box 121, Thomasville, Ala.

Me, I am a patient in a T.B. sanatorium; my children.—Ada M. Adair, Orlando, Fla.

The healing of my body; my brother in Service.—Mrs. John Duckett, Rt. 4, Vanore, Tenn.

God to undertake for us, we surely need His help.—Mrs. Marsie Sullivan, Rt. 6, Louisville, Miss.

The Lord to heal my body of a weakened and rundown condition; God to undertake for a case.—Mrs. Etna Presson, 1707 Hasemeyer Lane, N. Redondo, Calif.

The healing of Brother Lawton Music, Rt. 1, Douglas, Ga.—Mrs. George W. Martin, Douglas, Ga.

My baby who is very sick to be healed.—Myrtle Brock, Rt. 1, Pikeville, Tenn.

God to undertake for my daddy; me.—Hobson Dunn, Rt. 1, Chancellor, Ala.

My son in the South Pacific; God to undertake for us.—Mrs. Leslie Bratcher, Equality, Ky.

My baby and me, my husband was killed in action September 22, 1944; my brother somewhere in the Atlantic; my mother to be healed of kidney trouble.—Mrs. Lathelia Langdale.

My son, Claude Green, who is suffering with asthma, to be saved and healed.—Mrs. Ethel Gray, Rt. 1, Box 141, Baxley, Ga.

My brother, Sidney Manning, who is very bad with T.B., if God doesn't undertake he cannot last long.—Mrs. John Quinn, Rt. 2, Woodville, Ala.

God to undertake for me in a trial.—Sister Virginia Cosey, Chauncey, W. Va.

God to heal my body of something like a nervous breakdown, I suffer so much in body.—Mrs. E. V. Channell, 602 E. Virginia Ave., Tampa, Fla.

God to heal me of something like high blood pressure.—Mrs. Virgie Peters, Eccles, W. Va.

Me to be healed of gall bladder trouble; my son who was wounded in action and is now in the hospital at Nashville, Pfc. Chester G. Tipton, 34265380, Thayer Gen. Hospital, Pot. Det., Nashville 5, Tenn.—Mrs. Omie Tipton, 1401 E. 16th St., Chattanooga 4, Tenn.

Me to be healed, I have lung trouble and a severe hurting in my back and side.—Mrs. Mellie Traylor, Box 125, Fullerton, Ky.

A nephew of mine who was seriously wounded in action somewhere overseas and is unsaved.—Mrs. Bonnie Williams, Rt. 3, Pomeroy, Ohio.

God to completely heal my head and nerves; my son to be healed of cirrhosis; a friend to be healed of an ulcerated stomach and bad nerves; my brother to be healed of spots on his lungs.

Feel Good in My Soul

LUPTON CITY, Tenn.—Dear Evangel Readers, I praise the Lord for what He means to me. I feel good in my soul because God hears and answers prayer. It is a blessing to my soul to tell the world I am saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. I have a desire to live closer as I have an unsaved husband in the armed forces. He has been in time past a wonderful worker in the church. He truly needs God.

Please help me pray for him that he may come home a willing worker for the Lord. Pray for me that I will ever do what God wants me to do.—Mrs. Ethel Ward.

Glad I Have Salvation

STATESBORO, Ga.—I praise the Lord because He one time picked me up out of sin and put me on the solid Rock. I thank Him because I am saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost.

My heart had given me trouble by beating too fast at times for a long time. I sent a handkerchief to Brother L. G. Rouse. He anointed it and sent it back and, praise the Lord, my heart has not bothered me much since. I believe He is going to completely heal me. Please pray for me.—Mrs. Thelma Thompson.

THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Under normal conditions we should be ready to announce the time and place of the next General Assembly, but this is a year of war and many emergencies arise. The Government has placed restrictions on conventions to relieve the congested condition of hotels and traveling.

We have been to Washington and have very good assurance that our permit for a limited Assembly will be granted; however, there are some conditions to be worked out, and we are asking that you pray and be patient in this matter. As soon as we have the particulars worked out, there will be an announcement in the Evangel. — John C. Jernigan, General Overseer.

Oil-Varnished Pictures

We can now offer 15,000 Oil-Varnished Pictures of the original weight in paper stock. A far more serviceable painting. The titles are:

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CHURCH OF GOD PUB. HOUSE
Cleveland, Tenn.

Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Bryant

By JOHN C. JERNIGAN, General Overseer

Their two faces have been familiar around the General Assembly of the Church of God from the first one. Brother Bryant is the oldest minister in the Church. He is 82 years old, and Sister Bryant is 81 years of age. There may be couples in the Church older than they, but there are none who have been in the Church of God longer.

About 1895, fifty years ago, R. G. Spurling, Billy Hamby, Joe Tipton, and Milton McNabb came from Coker Creek, Tennessee, to the Shearer schoolhouse in Cherokee County, N. C., to conduct a revival. They preached sanctification and God gave them a great victory. Brother Bryant was living in that community and was sanctified during the revival. After the ministers and workers left he started a prayer meeting in the schoolhouse, which continued every Sunday for three years. He preached holiness as strictly as he knew it, and at the end of the three years there were about fifty disciples.

They built a church house in the community and the enemies of the doctrine Brother Bryant was preaching burned it. A second building was erected and a mob of 106 men burned it. They objected to the new doctrine because it was contrary to the belief of another well-known church in the community. They declared that such damnable doctrine (as they called it) could not be preached in Cherokee County, and brought a great persecution against Brother Bryant and others who worshipped with him.

At this time they were not organized, but in the year 1902 R. G. Spurling persuaded Brother Bryant that it was best to organize a church. A day was set in May, 1902, for the organization of the new church. At this time they had no church building and had been put out of the schoolhouse, so they met in the home of Brother and Sister Bryant and set the church in order with about twenty members. Brother Bryant recalls the name of most of them: W. F. Bryant, Nettie Bryant, R. G. Spurling, Ella Bryant, Agnes Bryant, Emeline Allen, Sally Hamby, T. N. Elrod, Mrs. T. N. Elrod, Ex Hamby, J. C. Murphy, Mrs. J. C. Murphy, M. Murphy, John Ellison,



REV. AND MRS. W. F. BRYANT

Johnny Brown, Andrew Freeman, R. R. Jones, and Belford Crumby. The church that R. G. Spurling's father, Richard G. Spurling, set in order in Monroe County, Tennessee, eighteen years prior to this time, had gone down, and the young Rev. Spurling, who had been a member and also pastor of the little church his father organized eighteen years before, became a member of this new church which was set in order by him and Brother Bryant. Both of them came in as charter members. Brother Spurling became pastor and they continued their worship in the Bryant home.

About one year or longer after the church was set in order, A. J. Tomlinson and M. S. Lemons joined the young church. Brother Bryant and Brother Spurling ordained Brother Tomlinson and he became pastor of the church. This was between one and two years before the First General Assembly was held.

Brother Bryant was an unlearned man, but during the days of his evangelistic activities he was a great exhorter and had powerful influence over sinners. Brother Bryant first preached the Church of God in Kentucky. He pitched his tent in Somerset and established the first church in the State there. He then established churches at Fox Ridge and Big Clifft, and his fourth church in Kentucky was Louisville.

Brother Bryant could be referred to as the forgotten man. Many of you

knew him and Sister Bryant years ago but have not heard of them for a long time. They live here in Cleveland and are regular attendants at the North Cleveland church. Just a few Sunday nights ago I saw Sister Bryant shouting up and down one of those long church aisles. Her shout had in it the ring of victory.

Most of the time Brother Bryant has been able to do a little work in his garden and milk the cow, but for the last few years his health has been poor. A few weeks ago I asked Brother Bryant to have this picture made for this purpose. He is at this writing in bed sick and will appreciate your prayers.

Brother and Sister Bryant did a great part toward organizing and launching the Church of God upon her first mission. A story of this kind is usually written after one is dead, but I think that these two precious old people should be given a flower while they are living. It is so easy to forget old people, but I hope the Church of God will never forget the old warriors who blazed the trail for the Church of God.

These two soldiers of the cross have lived to see the Church of God grow from a little local church in their humble mountain home to a great international organization with its modern publishing house, several Bible schools, one college, a big orphanage that cares for the unfortunate children, a retirement system for our aged and disabled ministers, a gigantic foreign mission program extending into thirty countries, and a great work in the United States with property value running into millions, and thousands of people saved from their sins every month under the preaching of Church of God ministers.

I have known Brother and Sister Bryant personally for more than twenty-three years. I recall talking to him about twenty-one years ago about the beginning of the Church in North Carolina, and I asked him the question: "Did you have any idea that the little church would ever grow to what it has?" His answer was, "Oh no, we never thought of such a thing." But this old veteran of the cross did not only live to see the Church what it was twenty-one years ago, but he has lived to see it more than three times the size it was twenty-one years ago. May the blessings of God be upon Brother and Sister Bryant and make

(Continued on page 15)

RELIGION AND THE WORLD

BY THE EDITOR

Deceit

Throughout the world there has been a great campaign by means of evolution as a study versus the Bible, in an endeavor to erase God from the human mind and heart. This is politically true also by the Communists' idea of ridding the world of the Word of God; to, if possible, turn aside the human mind from the idea of God as a Creator and Redeemer. However, after all forms of infidelity have been paraded up and down the halls of colleges and universities, and even in some pulpits, as the Word of God has been ridiculed and ignored, it remains that there is the dread and fear of God when death comes along. Even the antichrist, who will lead the final stages of deception against God, and though he sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is God (2 Thess. 2:4) he knows of a certainty there is a God. He will open his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. Rev. 13:6. This is an age of deceit. In every branch of learning there is a gloss. Yet, it is an age which will soon summarize with finality the time will come when God may be "all in all." 1 Cor. 15:28.

—O—

Christians in Japan

RNS reports that eighty-three leaders of the Holiness Church are in jail, alongside of many Seventh Day Adventists. The report stated that "Christians are no longer respected by the general public." Christianity is looked upon as being something foreign.

—O—

Turned Aside

It was Moses who turned aside to see the fire burn, and to examine why the bush was not burned. Exod. 3:2. He was interested in the fire and the miracle. He was educated but he had common sense enough to make a fair and square investigation. He decided for God and in favor of the miraculous. He saw, he believed in, and received the fire. Many great church leaders of today have turned aside, but not to see the fire, nor to investigate the miraculous; but turned en-

tirely away from both of these, toward modernism and almost, if not entirely, into paganism. There are a few, however, among the great leaders of today, who are trying to hold on to God and who are trying desperately to fan what is left of the fire into a flame.

—O—

A Desperate Circumstance

Many are praying at home and among our armed forces overseas; however, let it be said that we are still, after more than three dreadful years of war, experiencing no very great awakening in evangelism. There is a lot of talk about V-Day and peace, but there is little said about God, and let it be remembered that those who forget God will have no very real satisfaction in what V-Day brings or the peace that follows. Unless America returns to God and cries out for revival of the miraculous, the churches of our country have little to offer men who return from war. Men in the pulpit who deny the supernatural have little to offer men in the way of salvation. It was a miraculous manifestation all the way through from start to finish, both in the life and death of Christ. Modernism in the pulpits has emptied the pews of those who filled them when the church still believed in a living God.

—O—

Legislature Asks for Spiritual Values

The Arkansas House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for increased emphasis on spiritual values. The resolution read in part, "That our children be reared in the precepts of fundamental righteousness. That the churches and Sunday Schools be constrained to intensify their work and to extend it to every child within their respective spheres of influence.

—O—

Paris Mission Society Reports

that it has maintained 250 missionaries in nine fields, with 3,600 native workers in 3,000 stations, many of them located in British territory, according to Rev. Emile Schlossing, Society General Secretary.

Communism in Yugoslavia

Midnight Cry reports that, "Marshal Tito, head of the former Communistic Provisional Government set up in Belgrade following the liberation of Yugoslavia and now chief of the newly established regency, has adopted terroristic methods by which to communize that country. Confiscation of private property, regimentation of women, and the execution of thousands of his political opponents, including Dr. Vladiimir Zec of the Yugoslav Red Cross, have been reported

So terrible is the suffering under Marshal Tito's tyranny that Louis C. Christopher, president of the Serbian National Federation, resident in this country, has petitioned President Roosevelt to interfere in Stalin's attempt to set up a communistically controlled government in Yugoslavia.

—O—

Religion in Greece

All religious groups are looking forward hopefully under the new Greek government. All these groups are reported to be cooperating with the Government.

—O—

Dutch Churches Suffer

A report made from Geneva by the World Council of Churches stated that churches in Holland have suffered a \$20,000,000 loss in destruction of buildings. A group of nineteen institutions, homes, and schools, that formed a center of home mission activities in Holland, and represented more than a century of mission labor, was leveled."

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The Minister

We have in mind, when we use this title, the minister of the gospel, and we shall endeavor to confine our thoughts to the minister of the gospel. We see great fields before him in his career such as is before no other man, because no other profession carries the dignity, responsibility or duty as is one. There is a field of opportunity that is unlimited, a field of duty unsurpassed, a field of responsibility almost too grave to be willing to assume by mortal man.

1 Tim. 1:12, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry." God hath placed him in the ministry by a call, in that He counted him faithful. The Church has recognized that call, and also had faith in him, licensed him and appointed him to the ministry. Therefore, his responsibility would be to God, the Church, and those to whom he ministers. The Lord did not only count him faithful and put him in the ministry, but in Matt. 4:19 He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." They straightway left their nets and followed Him, as though they did it willingly and cheerfully. So here we find the minister

A FISHERMAN

Needless to say some fishermen are more successful than others, just as some ministers are more successful than others. One may work just as faithfully and as long as the other. One may study the habits of fish more than the other. He may know more how to throw the net. He may have more patience. One fisherman said the secret in fishing was to keep him hid as near as possible, which might be a great feature in fishing for men; let them see Jesus.

These men Jesus was speaking to were fishermen by trade, and when He spoke of fishing He was speaking their language. They were, no doubt, used to the rough seas with winds blowing hard and waves rolling high, which is emblematic of the world conditions of today brought about by passions of wicked, angry, unregenerate, sinful human beings infuriated by the devil himself. The world may be as full of this kind of men as the sea is of fish, and they feel as much at

By H. L. CHESSEY
Assistant General Overseer

home in the world as the fish do in the sea, although it does mean destruction to them if they are not saved and continue to indulge in its pleasures of ungodliness and sin.

As a net for the use of the fisherman, we have the gospel to cast and rescue them with. It is adapted to their condition, suited to their misery, an instrument calculated to bring them to God and the knowledge of His great salvation. It reveals their state, exposes their danger, and it brings help and deliverance. It is full of argument and motive power to rescue them. In Rom. 1:16 Paul said, "It is the power of God unto salvation." Yet, no matter how suitable to the occasion the net may be, if it is not cast into the sea, it will take no fish. So the gospel must be preached, the Word declared; for this work He calls men and women. He said preach the Word. To Jonah He said, "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee." This is His appointed plan. 1 Cor. 1:21, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." It sounds foolish to the natural, unregenerate man, but for nineteen centuries it has proved to be the power of God unto salvation. That should be enough proof if one has any intelligence at all.

The indolent and indifferent minister cannot be expected to succeed. He said, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth labourers," men that will work at the job. There is plenty of hard work in fishing, whether it be for fish or men. Constantly at it, in season, out of season. Skill to handle the net has much to do with the results of the catch many times, so the better acquainted with the gospel the better we can use it. It takes perseverance. They toiled all night and had taken nothing, but Jesus told them where to throw the net and they caught so many they could hardly haul them in. Many times the minister wonders just where to throw the net. He has toiled and preached until he is most worn out. Little results are seen. Heb. 10:36, "For ye have need of patience, that,

after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Some fishermen have fished for days and hardly caught enough for one good meal, but they kept stringing out the nets, and it has been known that many thousands of pounds were hauled in in one drag. So as the fishing minister, keep preaching the gospel, believing God for results, continuing to study the condition under which we labor, with prayer that God will give success, not being satisfied unless souls are praying through.

HE IS A SOWER OF SEED

Psalm 126:6, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." 1 Cor. 9:6, "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully." The seed fell on various kinds of soil. While some fell on hearts hardened with sin and ungodliness, and with rebellion against God, some among the thorns, etc., yet some fell on good ground and sprang up, because it is living seed he is sowing, the eternal truth of God. It contains living principles, thereby giving life. "And you who were dead in trespasses and sins hath he quickened." Thank God for the living Word that finds lodging place on good ground, and springs up into eternal life in the bosom of men and they become living stones, not the theory or exegesis given by some learned and scholarly giant, but the living Word, that is not only living but incorruptible, it decays not, perishes not, but produces eternal life; and God has exhibited His regard for its value in preserving it amidst the enmity of all generations, and maintains its purity to the present time. Although it has life, and is incorruptible, it will never spring up until there is obedience to the command, "Go ye and preach the gospel to every creature." There is the soil, the field, waiting for the sower to sow.

May God grant His ministers skill in sowing the seed, the same seed but varied congregations. It may necessitate a drill, or hand sowing broadcast, but sown faithfully, no compromise, or part kept back or camouflaged, or adulterated, leaving all without an excuse. It is to be done diligently, in season, out of season, in the morning, in the evening, at noonday, plentifully, in revival or regular service, not

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The Western District Plans Its Strategy

By O. C. CRANK

In these tremendous times when conferences of great international importance are being held by the top military leaders of our day, plans are being made for the final blow that will bring victory to the Allied Nations. At a time when all the world is warminded and much is being said of maps, plans, and strategy, I am happy to report that the leaders of the Church of God in the Western District have met at a conference table and plans are completed for a great offensive, not against "flesh and blood," "for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal," but against the great enemy of righteousness, Satan and his forces.

On February 14, the beautiful City of Sacramento, capital of the State of California, was honored to have in its midst men of God, leaders of the great Church of God in the West, for it was there that the state overseers of the Western District met with the Assistant General Overseer to map their strategy and plan a great victory over the evil forces of these last days, which seem to hold full sway here on the Western front.

Those present at this meeting were: J. D. Bright, Assistant General Overseer of the Western District; John E. Douglas, overseer of California and Nevada; C. C. Rains, overseer of Washington and Oregon; Ray T. Hill, overseer of Idaho; D. A. Biggs, overseer of Utah; O. C. Crank, overseer of Arizona.

After scripture reading and prayer, those present enjoyed an exhortation given by Brother J. D. Bright in regard to the work of the Church in general and the work at hand. The Western District is blessed to have for an Assistant General Overseer such an able and efficient leader as our highly esteemed and beloved Brother J. D. Bright.

In this meeting special attention was given to the items listed below.

1. EVANGELISM

Camp meeting and evangelistic campaigns were planned for each state. The first of these meetings with our Assistant General Overseer, Rev. J. D. Bright, and the district evangelists, the Dunn family, are to begin early in April and they will continue throughout the summer months until the close of the last one, which will be conducted late in July. At that time we shall

be thinking of the great General Assembly, where we shall go rejoicing and bringing our reports of the many who have found the Lord and the new churches set in order as the result of organized evangelism. In the meantime, while awaiting the general evangelistic party, each overseer is directing special evangelistic efforts in his state.

2. A WESTERN DISTRICT BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL

Realizing the great need of more trained and efficient workers in the West and knowing of the great distance that lies between this district and our strongholds in the East, it did not require a discussion to convince all that a Bible Training School of Church of God standard was a great need. The brethren agreed that a district school would be a great asset to the Church of God in the Western territory.

Sacramento, California, was selected as the location for the school. Arrangements are being made to move the school equipment from the Bible School in Yakima, Washington, to Sacramento, where the school will be more centrally located and will be known as The Church of God Bible Training School of the Western District.

The school board, which consists of seven men; namely, J. D. Bright, Superintendent of the school; D. A. Biggs, Ray T. Hill, C. C. Rains, L. W. Wright, John E. Douglas, and O. C. Crank, has carefully selected the curriculum and the outline of study has been arranged so as to give special attention to the training of ministers and Christian workers, as this is to be the main objective of the school.

The school term will begin October 1, 1945, and will continue for a six months' period.

3. BOOK, TRACT, AND BIBLE DISTRIBUTION CENTER PLANNED

In connection with the school, the distribution of tracts, books, and Bibles was discussed. It was decided that a book and Bible store be operated by the school, under the direction of the superintendent. Proceeds from the

sales are to be placed in the school funds.

4. A DISTRICT ORPHANAGE

The ministers and members of this territory are very anxious for an orphanage to be established in our district. Some have offered their services, others have expressed a desire to be regular contributors toward the upkeep. Generous offers of land on which to erect the building have been received. Already, several hundred dollars have been given to this worthy cause. Many are ready to help finance this project but are awaiting further development.

Plans for the district orphanage are as yet incomplete but all of the brethren were in favor of the following:

"Due to the growing need for, and expressed desire on the part of the ministers, members, and friends for an orphanage, we, the following, hereby go on record as being greatly concerned and interested in establishing a district orphanage in Sacramento, California, as soon as it is found to be possible or practical."

Signed by: Assistant General Overseer and State Overseers of the Western District.

5. A DISTRICT PAPER

It was decided that the best means of promoting the district as a whole and spreading the news of our progress over the mountains, valleys, plains, and deserts of this section, was to have a district paper. This paper, we are sure, will be a great inspiration to the workers here.

The state overseers decided to incorporate their state papers into a district paper, which has been appropriately named "The Church of God COLLABORATOR of the Western District." It will be a twelve-page publication and will be published monthly. Brother J. D. Bright, Assistant General Overseer, was selected Editor-in-Chief. The state overseers are to serve as associate editors, editing the news from the state in which they serve.

After meeting and making our plans together, each state overseer has returned to his respective state to pursue the course that was outlined at the conference in Sacramento. Surely, great results will follow this unified effort.

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What Does It Mean To Be a Christian?

By MERRILL H. EVE

Billy Sunday one time said, "Going to church won't make you a Christian anymore than going to a garage makes you an automobile." How true. For church attendance for appearance's sake is certainly not enough for any individual to secure eternal life.

The term Christian is used very loosely today. We speak of Christian nations, forgetting that there is none that deserves that title. We think of our Western culture as Christian and then are embarrassed when so-called heathen point out our many unchristian elements. As a matter of fact, there is much in our culture that is frankly pagan; for example, the brutal selfishness, the unashamed immoralities, the sophisticated unbelief, the stolid materialism and much else that marks our modern life.

But what makes the individual Christian? We are often wont to define as Christian one who has been baptized and is a member of some church, subscribes to a formal statement of belief or faith, attends divine worship, and supports financially with his means. All these are good but not enough. They have their part in historical Christianity, but they are not enough, I say. In fact, many do all these things and do not deserve at all the name Christian. The members of the Jewish church in Jesus' day were very punctual in their observances of religious practices, yet Jesus condemned them without mercy and unsparingly. It takes more than this to be a Christian.

There are people who would reproduce the social and religious forms of the first century. This is not possible and, if it were, it in itself would not make us Christian. We would have to go back to the donkey and houses of one room with dirt floors; we would have to go back to the Roman Empire and the reign of the Caesars. We do not want that, I am sure.

The early Church had no Christian scriptures, no church houses, no budgets, and very little organization. They didn't have their ladies' societies, nor brotherhoods for social functions.

People of that day were Christian in spite of these things. Yet for us to discard all of this to reproduce the outward forms of the early Church would not help us alone. That thing

which made them Christian in spite of the lack of so many things which are valuable to us today, was their vivid sense of the presence of the living God in Christ. Their only confession of faith was a simple one: "Jesus is Lord." But with this faith they succeeded in being Christian in the midst of a pagan world.

Then what is the vital thing today? Paul said, "If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Over one hundred and fifty times he used the phrase "in Christ" or its equivalent. It was the Spirit of Jesus in Paul that made him a Christian, for Christianity is the religion of a person. This person is far more than a historical figure who lived and spoke so many years ago; he is alive and present in this world today. The Christian then, is he who has accepted Him (Jesus) as Lord and is controlled wholly by His Spirit.

To be a Christian even today, then, is to be like Christ, having His spirit and His scale and standard to which we must measure our lives. There must be a trustful spirit and fellowship with the Father, which was His; there must be His purity of life within us, and devotion to the task, His love for men. We must measure all human standard by this standard. It is not enough to have the sanctions of tradition; even their antiquity is not proof of their worth. Slavery, prostitution, and war are very old and yet are very bad. Too often systems have taken on an appearance of respectability which passes for worth. Every evil system has had its defenders among good people. War is still glorified; shrewdness and trickery in business is applauded. Lust passes for love; hasty marriages, nothing more than legalized adultery, is the order of the day. Modesty, morality, seems to have covered her face.

But Jesus stripped bare all of this. He lays bare all religious hypocrisy and calls sin, sin. This is no whitewash or softening of the evil itself. He lays bare our emptiness, shallowness of our culture, and petty pride. But if He is the Lord and God, it means we must accept His values and make our lives like His.

So to be Christian is to be like
(Continued on page 15)

Reports

Progressing Spiritually and Financially

HAZLEHURST, Ga.—We are glad to submit an encouraging report of our church activities and progress, spiritually and financially.

Sunday night, February 24, was the closing of a three weeks' revival, conducted by Rev. J. B. Merritt, evangelist, who, with his wife, won a warm place in the hearts of our people. During this revival, besides the blessings and spiritual uplift received by many, several who had previously been saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and eight adults, united with the church. We have several teen-age girls who were saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost a year or two ago, and the beautiful lives of these girls are an inspiration and blessing, not only to the church but to outsiders and their friends on the school grounds. They never waver or backslide, but are living true, zealous, and Christian lives, and mean so much to our church and their friends. We thank God for them.

God continues to bless the work of our pastor, Brother Tommie Harper, and his wife. Our tithes average something over \$100 a month, besides the Sunday night offerings, all of which are an evidence of the love and confidence in which these good people are held by the church and community.

Our parsonage, which, with the help of God, Brother Harper started, is under construction, and we hope to have them living in it before long. Brother Harper can be found there every day driving nails right along with the contractor. An outside friend made the remark that the church should keep him in it from ten to fifteen years for what he is doing for it and for the church. Oh well, we thank God for this and all of His blessings to us.—Reporting Committee, Hope Jordan, chairman.

MONTANA PRAYER CONFERENCE GREAT SUCCESS

The ministers of Montana assembled at the Church of God in Billings, Mont., for the Montana prayer
(Continued on page 15)

What Meaneth This?

By
Charles W.
Conn

Text: Acts 2:12, "And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?"

Of course they were amazed! Men are always amazed at the acts of God. Here was a group of six score men and women, followers of the late Galilean whom some claimed to be the Christos, behaving in a most unseemly manner. This group of Jesus-converts was largely proletarian, with a few members of the lower middle classes, and perhaps, one or two rich persons—e.g., Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus. Most of these six score persons were ignorant and unlettered, yet they were all speaking in languages spoken and known by linguists the world over. Manifestations of divine power were upon them all. We must admit that to the onlooker it seemed like some disorderly bedlam, and that we seem likewise under the same conditions. 1 Cor. 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish FOOLISHNESS; but unto us WHICH ARE SAVED it is the power of God." Circumcision seemed foolish to the Gentiles; the Hebrews seemed foolish as they trumpeted around and around Jericho; Gideon's army looked foolish as they lapped water like dogs. But it was all OF GOD!

To the Jews this seemed like some strange outbreak of vinous hilarity, rather than an endowment from God. Their one perplexed question was: "What meaneth this?" "What is it all about?" "What has happened?" It fell upon the heart of Christodidact Peter to answer their questioning. Today, it remains upon the hearts of God's ministers, using the Word of God, to give them apt reply. Then, may the Word now answer this age-old query: What meaneth this?

1. IT DID NOT MEAN SALVATION OR THE NEW BIRTH. (LUKE 10:20.) Today, no doubt, some unreasonable theologaster would be present to exclaim that the disciples had been converted—that prior to this time they had all been a group of sinners. It seems strange that those who give this theory could possibly be sincere. Is there any person today who has lived in intimate communion with Christ for the past three years, so closely related to Him that He teaches you and

confides in you? Have you for three years obeyed His will, and have been empowered to heal the sick and cast out devils? Is there one who has lived this close to Christ for the past three years and will say he is unsaved? Not a Christian? A sinner? Of course there is not one.

The fact that their names were written in heaven surely meant something. Rev. 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." It is implied here that those whose names WERE written were not cast into the lake; thus they were saved from the judgment and the second death.

Revelation 13:8, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him (antichrist), whose names are not written in the book of life..." Thus they were empowered to resist the devil, or to be raptured from him. What further can any Christian want? Certainly they were saved men, saved from all that pertains to the devil. As to sin, Christ even likened their purity to His own. John 17:16, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." What more is there to expect from a saved man? If you are contentious, and insist that they were sinners prior to the day of Pentecost, knowing that they possessed all this, pray let it be known JUST WHAT ELSE THE NEW BIRTH DOES.

2. IT DID NOT MEAN SANCTIFICATION. At such an outpouring today there would probably be quite a number that would contend that the disciples were sanctified, and that sanctification and the Holy Ghost baptism are one and the same thing. That is hardly in line with the Scriptures and is surely a precarious thought and doctrine.

What was the purpose of Christ's prayer in John 17? Begin with the seventeenth verse and read carefully through the twenty-third. Note: He prayed for their sanctification, "That they may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be ONE in us..." Was this prayer answered before the outpouring of the Holy Ghost? Certainly so. Acts 2:1, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all WITH ONE ACCORD!" This marvellous oneness

came sometime before the Holy Ghost came. This Christian love and purity had to come before the Holy Ghost could find entrance.

I. JOY

It is extremely doubtful that even the ones upon whom the blessing had come fully realized the greatness and importance of Him who filled them. To the onlookers it seemed only a great stir among theopathic enthusiasts. Some made the suggestion that they might even be a bit tipsy. It is true that joy is a major part of His work, but let it be known that that is only a beginning of His great versatile blessings. He is a person as truly as Christ or God. He is as sober and sincere, as important and awesome; He is due the same veneration they are due. This writer most heartily resents hearing His sweet person referred to as "the walking, talking, jumping, shouting, leaping, hopping Holy Ghost" or any other such irreverence. He is a party of the triune Godhead and we dare not burlesque Him.

Ah, joy! Rejuvenescence! Enlivenment of the heart and soul and body! Manifestations of His presence. Not mere gladness of heart, but visible and audible evidence of His infilling. Acts 13:52, "And the disciples were FILLED with joy, and with the Holy Ghost." Joy accompanies the Holy Ghost because that is His primary work. In Gal. 5:22, joy is mentioned as the second fruit of the Spirit. Shout! The Holy Ghost fills you! That is something to shout about. Joy! Joy! Joy! He puts praise in their hearts and a song on their lips; He floods the soul with joy. This holy thrill can never end "for the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and JOY in the Holy Ghost."

II. POWER

He is more. Far more. Beyond the scope of the human mind He is still. He empowers, arouses our energies, stiffens our moral fiber. He is POWER. Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you"—power to proclaim the gospel, tread on serpents, overcome evil, obey God. Why are the sick raised? the sinners converted? the Word of God proclaimed? the will of

God obeyed? Because of power—the Holy Ghost power. Shrinking, wavering, tempestuous Peter soared to the heights of oratorical eloquence, invading the enemy's territory to snatch souls from his lair. Paul and Silas were empowered that they could "turn the world upside down." With the Holy Ghost He "... maketh . . . his ministers a flame of fire." What meaneth this? It means that from henceforth men can be invigorated, soul and mind, until their power cannot be fathomed or equaled or subdued. From their bellies shall flow rivers of living waters; turbulent, majestic, powerful, shaking the world for God. And YE shall receive POWER.

III. TEACHER

In no instance are men excused for lethargy and negligence in studying to show themselves approved unto God. But there are times when a man needs more than a diploma—more than a degree. He needs God. He needs words—and desperately! Well? The onlookers asked the meaning of the Holy Ghost, and the answer was: They have received One who will supply them with words at the needed time. Luke 12:12, "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." The quick wit and repartee shown by people of this baptism have shown that the Holy Ghost is One who will go with men into their judgments and trials. He will give you a reply.

The Holy Ghost outpouring meant, also, that believers could receive a teacher of revelations, giving men understanding of the Word. 1 Cor. 2:13, "...we speak, not in the words which MAN'S wisdom teacheth, BUT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST TEACHETH: comparing spiritual things with spiritual." St. John 14:26, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." He makes men theodidacts; refreshes their minds, and stirs them to remembrance of what they have learned. He reveals. Many times this writer has slipped to his knees, perplexed, and wept to understand some foreign passage, and have this illuminating force flood his soul. All of you have had like experiences. That, Mr. Doubter, is ONE MORE of the blessings this "commotion" means to us.

IV. COMFORTER

What meaneth this? It means

that, hereafter, your revilings and bruises and flagellations can not hinder the work of the Lord—His laborers now have a COMFORTER. Acts 9:31, "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the COMFORT OF THE HOLY GHOST, were MULTIPLIED." There was absolutely no way to check the growth of these people, for the promise had come. John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you ANOTHER COMFORTER, that he may abide with you FOREVER." Another Comforter? Yes. One like Jesus. Christ played His greatest role as Comforter at the tomb of Lazarus. John 11:33, "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping . . . HE GROANED IN THE SPIRIT, and was troubled." Further, "Jesus wept . . . Jesus therefore again GROANING IN HIMSELF cometh to the grave." What comfort the Master's groanings must have given Mary and Martha. He was so human in His sympathies. He was a Comforter, but we have ANOTHER Comforter. What meaneth this? It means that "likewise the SPIRIT also helpeth OUR infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but THE SPIRIT itself maketh intercession for us with GROANINGS which cannot be uttered," Romans 8:26. Those who have never known Him as a Comforter have missed Him in His sweetest portion. When the clouds are too thick for joy; the brain too numb for teaching; the soul too inert for power, the Holy Ghost is still there—comforting and consoling, soothing and assuring our troubled hearts. Oh, how blessed, how indispensable is this Comforter. He goes with us through the valleys as well as over the mountains.

V. GUIDE

St. John 16:13, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH." At life's crossroads He is there to guide you into the truth. How often the testimony has been given: "The Holy Ghost led me here." He will not—verily, He CANNOT—lead into falsehood. He can guide ministers to the proper place of labor; guide all into the proper decisions. But He is the guide, we the followers.

"How can one be perfectly sure that it is the Spirit leading him?" many have asked. The Scriptures were written by the inspiration of the Spirit,

and He will never lead you into something that in any whit contradicts His written Word.

VI. THE WITNESS

Before their very eyes, the Jews were allowed to see the witness of God's covenant with His people, recorded in Jer. 31:31-33. Hebrews 10:15, "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them, and their sins and iniquities I will remember no more." By this spiritual effusion was God's covenant fulfilled to (a) put His laws into their hearts and minds, and (b) to forget their sins and iniquities. How pathetic that they, the very ones to whom God had made this promise, should fail to recognize the Witness when He came.

VII. SEALER

2 Cor. 1:22, "Who hath also sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." What further does the Holy Ghost mean? As a notary, with his seal, deeply impresses his documents, so does God, by the Spirit, deeply impress us with His truths and likeness. "The earnest of the Spirit" is henceforward imbedded in every heart.

Eph. 1:13, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also, after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Those unto whom the Holy Ghost has fallen are thus stamped as the property of God. Sealed; marked; impressed; stamped. That baptism the scoffers beheld meant that the disciples had received more than the forgiveness of sins; had been more than sanctified; they had received a theomorphic infilling—they were moulded into the form of God. Among themselves, the Jews queried: "What meaneth this?" When the piercing demand reached the ears of the disciples, the answer came charging from the lips of Peter: "THIS IS THAT!" But even as he spoke those famous words, he could not possibly have realized just what "that" embodied. All around about rang jubilant floods of praise, but deep beneath that jubilation lay cogency unknown; beneath those ringing floods of rapture lay POWER. Far more than ecstatic ardor had come into those hearts. They had re-

(Continued on page 14)



Missions • Missionaries

M. P. CROSS, Executive Mission Secretary

International Christian Brotherhood

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL NATIONS

**"Down Mexico Way"**

Dear Reader,

I wish it were possible to take you in a moment of time and let you see the crying need of our nearest neighbor "south of the border." It will be impossible to put it in cold ink. Oh, how their humbleness, sincerity, devotion, and whole-heartedness rebuked me!

Our party left Oklahoma and Texas and traveled as far as Nogales by automobile, but from there we went by train as we were informed that the remaining 330 miles in the interior of old Mexico was little more than a trail and in some places the road was uncharted, this in addition to the hostility of the Yaka Indian outlaws.

The trip down was amusing as we viewed the sights of the merchant boys and girls, men and women, lining the track at each station selling from baskets their wares of hot tamales, sweetbread, fruits, and other food. Sanitation was an absentee among the people there. We did not know it then, but people and conditions were to have a different effect upon us before long. Instead of being amused, we felt a constant tugging at our heart for these people "south of the border." Their material need is appalling, to say nothing of their spiritual need.

We had the privilege and the pleasant experience of accompanying Brother Ingram and Brother Cross from Nogales to Obregon, Sonora. Our beloved Brother Hargrave met us at the station and saw that arrangements were made at a hotel for us. That night the convention was supposed to start and it did! Oh such singing! It seems that harmony comes naturally to them and then, too, their language is made for music and all this augmented by the power of God. Folks, it was heavenly. You could read earnestness across all their faces. Not just the choir, but all the people sang. You could tell by looking at their simple clothing that they had not left home with the intention of going on a dress parade. Their minds were not on their clothes, but on the Lord. As I viewed them as they knelt to pray (for I was all eyes), here one with an

upturned face; there another, with a bowed head; and another prostrate on the floor, my soul cried out and yearned for their simplicity.

One night at midnight as we were leaving the church, someone called our attention to three elderly women who were, also, leaving. They had WALKED fourteen miles through country infested with rattlesnakes and wild beasts to be in the service. Would you go to church if you had to walk fourteen miles?

The ministers are very busy. From here and there they are calling, "Come over and help us." Truly the harvest is white but the laborers are few in Mexico and how the Mexican people love and respect the ministry. One night Brother Edgar Darter and I were kept busy for about forty-five minutes praying, anointing, and laying hands on the people as they filed past us for prayer. Sick? No—just wanting a blessing. It was said that forty people received the Holy Ghost during those three momentous days. It makes me want to go and give the gospel to those good people who want to receive it and appreciate it.

For fear this may be too lengthy, I will close with worlds of things untold.—Earnest M. Smith.

Barbados Speaks

Dear Church of God Family:

I am glad to have this opportunity to send you this report of our visit to St. Kitts.

Sunday morning, January 28, at 6 A. M. we began our series of meetings which lasted till Monday night, February 12. We held twenty-four meetings during that time and God surely has wonderfully blessed us. He has made us a blessing to many and we do have a loyal and faithful band of workers in the Island of St. Kitts.

We have been able to conduct revival meetings at the following places: Basseterre, the chief town, where the pastor, Sister Halstead, did her best to make us comfortable. We had the joy of seeing twenty-three precious souls come to the Savior. Also, at Tabernacle, where Brother Green and his fine band of people did all

they could to look after our needs, God blessed our meetings and twenty seekers came forward seeking salvation.

From Tabernacle we went to Newton Ground where we met Sister Hodge, and her flock. God again met with us and in the three days there we had twenty-nine souls crying to God for pardon. So that we had the great joy of seeing seventy-two souls in all saved during this our short visit. On Sunday, February 11, we had a wonderful quarterly meeting beginning in the morning with eight dear ones being baptized in water and eight believers were received into the fellowship of the church. Then an ordination service followed. Brother William Green was ordained an elder, and has been appointed a marriage officer for St. Kitts by the administrator. Other workers were also set apart as female evangelists and helpers in the work of the Church. We then had a beautiful Lord's supper in which forty believers took part. The Sunday evening service concluded with eight souls at the altar.

Monday night when we had to say good-bye, we had a meeting long to be remembered in which many expressed their regret that we had to leave, and hoped that we might soon be able to come again. At 11:30 P. M. there were nine seekers at the altar and we were about to close when a wave of glory and the power of God came down upon us, and soon five of the believers were prostrated on the floor. By 12:45, three had come through speaking in tongues. This meeting will live long in our memories. God has indeed done great things whereof we are glad. Let us continue to pray for the work and the workers.—His and yours seeking the lost, Mrs. Violet L. Winter, wife of J. B. Winter.

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Greetings in Jesus' dear name:

We are very glad to give our first quarterly meeting report held on February 11, 1945 at the Church of God, Central Street, Basseterre. Three assemblies came together for this great occasion. It started in the morning (Continued on page 14)

Obituaries

GRIFFINS

Sister Mable Griffins was born November 14, 1920, and departed this life January 6, 1945. She was a member of the Church of God at Seaford, Del., a church worker, and is greatly missed.—Robert Coleman, Rt. 1, Box 188, Federalsburg, Md.

ANDERSON

Brother Hoke Anderson, son of Grady and Mattie Hogged Anderson, was born June 12, 1925, and departed this life March 11, 1945; age nineteen years, nine months, and one day. He professed hope in Christ at the age of eighteen years and was united with the Church of God at North Mt. Zion and was a faithful member until death.—Mrs. L. C. Smith, Rt. 3, Decatur, Ga.

DAVIS

Sister Manda Davis, a faithful mother and member of the Church of God, went to be with Jesus March 10, 1945; age thirty-nine years. Pray for her loved ones.—Mrs. Myrtice Wolfe, Nicholls, Ga.

BROWN

Kie Edwin Brown, Jr., was born March 12, 1920; he was wounded in action January 2, 1945, and died in Belgium January 21, 1945.—A. L. Smith.

REYNOLDS

Pfc. George T. Reynolds was killed in action on the beachhead in France, June 8, 1944. He has two brothers in Service and another one called. Please pray for them, also pray for my mother, Mrs. Maggie Reynolds, Rt. 3, Palestine, W. Va., who needs the prayers of God's people.—His sister, Mrs. Alice Dickerson, Rt. 3, Palestine, W. Va.

GARRETT

Rev. J. G. Garrett, a minister of the Church of God for a number of years, was born July 26, 1863, and passed away September 11, 1944; age eighty-one years. He was a loving father and a faithful minister; he trusted the Lord with his body. His wife, Hulda Caroline, went to be with Jesus April 22, 1944. She was a faithful member

of the Church of God at Lenoir City. —Their daughter, Mrs. Vona Hicks, Rt. 3, Box 300, Lenoir City, Tenn.

KENDRICK

Mrs. Minnie Kendrick departed this life to be with Jesus February 9, 1945. She was a member of the Church of God at Marvel, Ala.—J. R. Woodard, her pastor.

WILSON

Minnie Jane Wilson was born June 7, 1889, and departed this life July 30, 1944.—A. L. Smith, pastor, Manns Choice, Pa.

RUBY*

James Harvey Ruby was born April 4, 1872, and died January 7, 1945.—A. L. Smith, pastor, Manns Choice, Pa.

Glad for the Privilege To Serve God

PAVO, Ga.—Truly I praise the Lord for His saving, sanctifying, and keeping power. I praise Him because He has helped me to overcome so many trials and temptations. I have been in this holiness way for a little over four years. I praise the Lord this morning because I love Him and I know He loves me because He gave His life for me. Praise His wonderful name. I feel His presence now. Hallelujah!

I sent in several requests to the Evangel for different ones to be healed. I praise God this morning because their prayers have reached heaven and they are healed. Glory to God! My sister who was afflicted was healed. The doctors gave her up. She told me if she was healed God would do it, so I requested prayer for her and I received a letter saying she was just in as good health as she ever was.

I am glad I can serve a God like that, aren't you? One of the sisters in our church suffered severely with asthma, so I felt impressed to send in a request for her also. She told me the Lord had healed her. I do not think she had but two bad spells with it after I sent the request in for prayer. Praise Him because He healed my son and me of our troubles. I praise God and all who prayed for the healing of our bodies.

Pray that I will stand true to God until He says it is enough.—Mrs. Vera Morris, Rt. 3.

NOTICES

Broadcast

Church of God Radio Hour, every first and third Sunday, at 11:15 a. m., over station WAYX, Waycross, Ga. J. B. Conner, pastor Bridgeport church, Hazlehurst, Ga.

I am now on the air each Thursday at 4:15-4:45 p. m. and each Sunday from 8:00-8:30 a. m., over WEGO, Concord, N. C., 1410 kc. D. H. Delk, pastor.

Notice to Clerks

If you have record of Church of God members who have moved to Beaumont, Texas, please notify me of their address or whereabouts. Write me soon at 1629 Maritime St., Maxim Village, Beaumont, Tex.—V. L. Ivey.

We Are Serving God Now

RINGGOLD, Ga.—We really thank the Lord for our good pastor and wife, Brother and Sister Roy Shields. Brother Shields has been a great blessing to the church here. He is building a new church out on the highway. We have had a hard time with it. Of course, the devil has fought us all along but we are not serving him anymore, so we expect to have the new church done one of these days soon and expect to start a revival and get souls saved. Pray for us, that our church will be a soul-saving station, and let us be faithful to the end, for Jesus is coming soon after those who have done the will of the Father.

I praise the Lord for what He means to me. A little over two years ago I had never heard of the Church of God and its teachings and the great plan of salvation, but, thanks be to God the Father, He looked down upon my poor lost soul in mercy and sent one of His servants to tell the glad tidings of great joy. I was the one who heard and believed his report and opened my heart to Him and, praise His name, He came in and took up His abode and still abides. Hallelujah! I joined the Church of God and love it with all my heart and have a good time in the Lord here at Ringgold. Please pray for us.—Dorothy Stanley.

The person who uses deceit may hide among men, but he stands uncovered before God.

CONVENTIONS

South Cleveland, Tennessee

We have been thinking for some time about telling our many friends through the Evangel some of the many good things God has blessed us with here since the Assembly.

When we came to Cleveland we could not find a house to rent, and the church had no parsonage, so we stored our furniture and stayed with our good Brother and Sister C. L. DeFriese in their home. We could not have been treated nicer. The best seemed not enough for them to do for us, and many others of our good members would have gladly opened their homes to us too.

We believed God had a hand in sending us here, and we believed He would come to the rescue of His servants, so we took the matter up with the church and they readily agreed to buy a parsonage. This we did, and now have a nice six-room parsonage, all modern, electric kitchen, and the house all nicely furnished on South Ocoee Street, about two blocks from the church. The property cost us about \$3,500, and furnishing it around \$700. We now owe something over \$1,700 on the parsonage, and we certainly do praise God and the good folks here for it.

I never felt any more in the Lord's will in all my ministry than here, and God has given us as good a year so far as any in our ministry and this is my twenty-first year as a pastor. We love the people here in South Cleveland, and they have shown by their actions that they love us. We are having fine services, good crowds, and my, how God is showering down His blessings upon us. We had 170 last Sunday in Sunday School, 206 on Christmas Sunday, and our Sunday School offerings have averaged \$20.00 per Sunday since the Assembly. We have a fine Y.P.E.—well attended and proving a great blessing to our work. We are believing God is going to help us pay for our parsonage soon, and then to help us build a nice new church here, which is badly needed.

Cleveland is putting in a broadcasting station now, and we will be on the air as soon as the station begins to operate.

God gave us a wonderful revival of four weeks, and many were blessed and the church was greatly blessed

and strengthened. God's Spirit was graciously poured out in our midst. The local ministers assisted me in the meeting, and, my, how they did preach. Sometimes no preaching was needed. There was shouting, dancing, and rejoicing, and then many came to the altar without preaching. We have Methodist, Baptist, and others here who have the Holy Ghost, and I feel they soon will be members of The Church of God.

Our Cleveland district convention convened at the North Cleveland Church of God where Rev. James L. Slay is the pastor, and it was a great convention indeed. Every service was grand, and every speaker was seemingly anointed for the special occasion. The offering for the orphans was \$160, nearly three times more than last year, and our mission offering was \$600, more than double last year's offering.

We have a splendid group of ministers and a loyal band of laymen on our district, of which we are proud. They are all cooperating, and it has been a pleasure to work with them as their district pastor this year. Brother Tidwell, our state overseer, is on the job and won the esteem of both the ministers and laymen of Tennessee by his faithfulness and sound fundamental preaching and business ability.

We have found a God-loving people here in Cleveland, and have already begun to feel very much at home, and I say in closing, I never worked with a more loyal and Spirit-filled people than here in South Cleveland.

Our financial part is tops, and all I need to do is tell them what we need and they are there with the amount needed. This and many other things is what I think it takes to make an ideal church. Yes, South Cleveland is up and coming, and with your prayers we will have a greater report by the Assembly.

Pray for us, and God bless you all.—Your brother and co-worker, J. A. Bixler, pastor and district pastor, P. O. Box 754, South Cleveland, Tenn.

Danville, Virginia, District Convention a Great Success

We gladly sound a note of praise in honor to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost who were present from the opening until the close of the convention.

The convention opened Friday evening, February 23, with North Danville Church of God, under the direction of our state overseer, Rev. D. C. Boatwright; also our district pastor, Rev. C. W. Collins.

The welcome address was given by the local pastor, Rev. C. H. Shaw, which was enjoyed by all. Responses were given by several good ministers. Then came the message of the evening by Rev. Roy Douglas. The Lord wonderfully blessed. Several came to the altar seeking God.

We were also privileged to have with us our state Y.P.E. and Sunday School superintendent, Rev. E. Ray Kirk, who brought a message on our orphans. Then an opportunity was given the people to give an offering to the orphans in the amount of \$65.50. We were happy to have with us visiting ministers from other parts of the State; also special singers.

On Sunday morning we enjoyed a great message by our state overseer, Rev. D. C. Boatwright. God graciously poured out His Spirit. An offering was received for missions in the amount of \$676.41, for which we give God the praise.

We surely thank God for the good loyal people on the Danville district in Virginia for the way they are responding to the cause of Christ. —Mrs. Roy Douglas.

Sunday School and Y.P.E. Convention

We are praising God for the very best Sunday School and Y.P.E. convention I have ever had the pleasure of attending. The Churches of God on the Cleveland district met at Cleveland, Ohio, March 2, 3, for a jubilee indeed. The Lord was in each of the three services held. It seemed that He kept sending us waves of glory, with probably a score dancing in the Spirit at one time. These were the kind of services where people forgot everything else but God and His blessings. The glory hallelujahs were simultaneous as the Lord sent His blessings. Passing time meant nothing at all. You who haven't had a blessing for a long time try coming to Cleveland, for the Lord is blessing His people here. This was the sixth district convention held this year in Ohio. The reports are that it was the best, but it is just like the Lord to keep making each one seem better than the preceding one. In this kind of services it keeps one

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REVIVALS

A great revival was held at the Church of God in Princeton, W. Va. Evangelist Lillian Peacock, of Tampa, Florida, being accompanied with special music and singing by her husband, Roy, was with us for a period of two weeks. In the revival there were approximately thirty-three saved, eight sanctified, four filled with the Holy Ghost, and eight united with the Church. We have not had the baptismal service yet due to the condition of my health. This revival was largely attended each night. Many expressed themselves that this was the greatest revival they ever attended. It has been a great boost to the church in general. I find Sister Lillian to be a great evangelist. Her messages are interesting and inspiring. She has a winning personality that endears her to both the church and congregation. She works splendidly with the pastor and for the best interest of his church. We bid both her and Brother Roy Godspeed.

—D. B. Hatfield, pastor.

shepherds over this flock, and for the new converts, that each one will be able to stand true until Jesus comes or calls.—R. A. Fielden and wife, pastor, Box 306, Bluefield, Va.

ANDERSON, S. C. — We are glad that Brother Colon T. Dunn could come to the Anderson church for a two and one-half weeks' revival. His good singing and preaching moved the church and many said it was the best revival in years. A good loving spirit dominated the meeting. Twenty-six were saved, eighteen sanctified, eleven filled with the Holy Ghost, and ten united with the church.

Any church would be fortunate to get Brother Dunn for a revival. The Anderson church extends to him an invitation to return next year. We appreciate our good pastor and his wife, Brother and Sister R. R. Walker. Their faithful labor and life inspire us to travel on until we reach our home.—T. C. Bolt, church clerk.

MONTCALM, W. Va. — We had a three weeks' revival with Sister Jesse May Rose, of Hewitt, West Virginia, as evangelist. Thirty-two were saved, twenty-three sanctified, seven filled with the Holy Ghost, eighteen baptized in water, sixteen added to the church, and twenty-eight partook of the Lord's supper and feet washing. Sister Rose surely did some real old-time gospel preaching which everyone enjoyed. We had good crowds in each service and the saints are really encouraged. This good revival spirit is still with us and sinners are still seeking the Lord. Anyone needing a good evangelist would do well to engage Sister Rose. Brother Rose was a great help with his good, humble life and kind words of encouragement to both saints and sinners. One man sixty years old, who had never been saved before, got saved and sanctified in this revival and has a burning testimony for the Lord and a word of warning to the lost. This one man alone was worth the revival, but God gave us many precious souls of men, women, and young girls. The church is proud of every one. Please pray for our church, for the pastor and his wife, that they will be good

ORME, Ala.—A revival was held at the Church of God conducted by Brother J. F. Pharr. He did some good preaching and the great interest was shown. One soul was reclaimed in this meeting and some are seeking the Holy Ghost. We are making every effort possible to press forward until we can all be one in the Lord. Pray for us.—M. A. Guess, pastor, Rt. 1, Stevenson, Ala.

THREE FORKS, Mont.—A two weeks' revival was held in Three Forks by Brother Godwin, our state overseer. Many souls came to the altar and sought God. A church was set in order with eight members. This is a new field and it is hard to get people to come out to church, but we know God is able to undertake. We are looking forward to the time when we shall see a large Church of God established here. Brother Godwin's sermons were enjoyed by all and eternity alone can reveal the good that was done.

There are so many souls in this great State of Montana that need God, but the laborers are few. Truly this is a hard place to try to bring the gospel and there are many discouragements, but God has proven Himself so

many times in taking care of His own that anyone who feels the call to come here should not hesitate. We have been in the work in Montana over seven years and can truthfully say that God has been with us every step of the way, and has given us a few precious souls. Praise His precious name. We love the people in Montana.

—Mrs. E. Buckman.

PULASKI, Va.—Dear brothers, sisters, and all readers, I thank God for the way He has so wonderfully blessed me. I was saved July 12 and received the Holy Ghost July 17. I have never had good health, but my strength has failed considerably in the past year. I had to give up my job. The doctor said that I have fallen stomach and that he could do me very little good. I have bad smothering spells and am so weak that I can hardly stand or walk. We have been praying for my healing. About a week ago the Lord touched my body and I felt as though I was healed. But a few days later the trouble returned and the suffering was so intense that it seemed I would not be able to endure it. Thank God for the promise that He would not leave nor forsake us. Mother prayed almost all day for me but I was still suffering. I went into my bedroom and began to read my Bible and pray. I laid my Bible on my stomach and prayed until the power of God touched my body. I had been so weak that I could hardly stand, but I walked out and informed my family that God had touched me, and I was able to help with the evening chores. Sick ones, don't get discouraged if God doesn't heal you at once. There may be a reason for your suffering. Hold on in prayer and be resigned to His will. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I am also having trouble with my ears. My hearing is very poor. I covet your prayers that I may be made whole and hold to God's unchanging hand until victory comes. There are many hard trials but the way grows sweeter every day. God says, "He that endureth until the end, the same shall be saved." May God bless all.—Your sister in Christ, Elsie Candiel.

CLAY CITY, Ky.—We closed a two weeks' revival Sunday night, November 19, conducted by Sister Mary Wilson. Six were saved, three sanctified, and two filled with the Holy Ghost. We are giving God the praise for all

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THE MINISTER

(Continued from page 5)

sparingly from the pulpit, press and radio, bountifully, prayerfully, that the sun and rain of God's presence may fall upon it and make it grow and produce fruitfulness, that His glory may be promoted, and converts increased until the praises from newborn souls reverberate around the globe. More seed sowing is needed.

THE MINISTER IS A WATCHMAN

Heb. 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." In Ezek. 33:1-9 we are given the record where the watchman is to give the sound when the enemy is coming, etc. To be a watchman signifies an appointment which is responsible to others, usually to some higher authority. He is not there to do as he pleases, but to do as he has been instructed. This verse in Hebrews states that he watches for their souls as they that must give account. The minister is the licensed representative of the church and not of himself. He is to reflect the teachings of the church and not his own views or opinions, unless the church has set forth no rule or discipline; then his opinions are in order. His is a position of trust. He has been entrusted with the position of watching for the security of spiritual life, against secret and open enemies; to instruct men on their way to heaven, and to warn them of the pitfalls, and of the things that will ruin their spiritual lives, such as false teaching, careless living, apostatizing from the truth, unbelief of the promises of God. Again, his is a position of responsibility: to watch, not sleep. There are too many perils along the way to bring destruction to those entrusted to his care, also to himself, for him to be indolent and sleep or to compromise principle for the sake of prestige or report. Some other watchman may be given your post after you are gone and be embarrassed to find you had not been true to the responsible position, by compromise and failure to warn and protect those you are watching for, therefore causing confusion. Let us consider, as did the Indian, who, when passing through the country and when he had eaten a peach and stopped to bury the seed, was asked why he was burying the seed, replied, "Another Indian may pass this way some time." Another watchman may

pass this way, so let us be considerate.

WHAT MEANETH THIS?

(Continued from page 9)

ceived far more than the ability to rejoice. Long after these voices of glory subsided, He would still be there, there to guide and comfort and teach through long valleys of depression and perplexity, and once again burst forth into exultation of triumph and glory. He is here to stay. Not a passing breeze, but a cogent wind to sweep the world forever. He is too vast, too wonderful to define. "What meaneth this?" The full reply, eternity holds.

CONVENTIONS

(Continued from page 12)

guessing as to what's coming next. There were so many good things, with plenty of good special singing.

One main feature of this convention was the Saturday evening round table conference, in which there were many good things discussed by Ralph Williams, our state superintendent, and others of the Sunday School officials, which should prove a great blessing to the Sunday School in general. There were two representatives from the Police Inspector's Office who showed moving pictures on the great evil that is covering America. Juvenile delinquency seems to be the nation's number one problem. The question was and is, what are we going to do about it? The greatest responsibility rests on proper training at home. Next comes the church. Oh, how we need to seek God's help to be able to combat this great evil which is ruining our young people. Our district pastor, Rev. Roy Staats, gave us the statistics on the crime wave of today, which should open the eyes of those who have let the spirit of lethargy slip upon them. He also gave us a timely message on "Facing the Crises of Youth," or in other words, "Facing the Enemies of Youth." Brother Ralph Williams preached a fine message in our convention on "Agencies God Has Given for Saving Our Young People." — Joseph Grooms, 1142 Buhler Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

REVIVALS

(Continued from page 13)

the good that was accomplished. Sister Wilson is a wonderful preacher. We enjoyed working with her. Pray for our work here that the church will have the best year it has ever had.—Rev. O. L. Rose, pastor; Mrs. O. L. Rose, clerk.

THE WESTERN DISTRICT PLANS ITS STRATEGY

(Continued from page 6)

Usually, when referring to the great things that have been accomplished in the Church of God, one will hear the words "in the East," but we feel sure that as the plans outlined in the preceding paragraphs materialize, the West will gain more recognition than it has in the past.

We believe that all will soon hear of much greater progress in the Western territory. We have made progress. Only those that know the West and have knowledge of the problems and the handicaps that confront workers in this territory, can appreciate the advancement that has been made. However, we are looking forward to even greater progress now that we have combined our efforts.

The good people here in the West are with us and they realize that The Church of God has moved into this territory to stay and has become a part of the Golden West.

Other things were planned for the promotion of God's Word and work here in the West. Space will not permit a detailed report of all, but watch the Evangel for news of our progress as this great Church of God army moves forward on the Western front.

MISSION PAGE

(Continued from page 10)

with a baptismal service in which eight candidates followed their Lord in water baptism. The indoor meeting was opened by prayer and praise and followed by an interesting address from our worthy overseer, Bishop J. B. Winter. He was followed by his partner, Sister Winter, who always blesses her hearers with her cheery and encouraging messages. She has a wonderful passion for souls and leads many to the Savior. The Tabernacle report showed that there had been eighteen souls saved during the quarter, also regular Y. P. E., cottage, and open-air meetings. The sick are visited weekly. Early morning meetings are held on Sundays and Tuesdays, and a regular Sunday School.

The afternoon session was an ordination service in which Brother Green was ordained an elder by our dear overseer, Rev. Winter, and two elders by the laying on of hands. Other workers were set apart, including Sisters West, Halstead, Green, and Hodge, and four brothers, as helpers in the church. This was a very blessed

service and we feel like saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

We wish to send to you bishops and overseers at Headquarters our grateful and heartfelt thanks for your kindness which has enabled us to keep going forward, and wish you God's continued blessing.—Yours in the Master's service, Elder W. A. O. Green, Tabernacle, St. Kitts.

— — —
Isaiah 52:9, "Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord has comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem."

Having obtained help from the Lord, we have continued until now. I am glad to report VICTORY. God has done marvelous things for us. During the last three months, we have held ninety-four meetings and Sunday School each Sunday. We had a good Christmas program for the quarter. We have been able to pay five visits to other churches, the sick have been visited, and we have had two prayer and fasting services. We are truly grateful to God for giving us this nice large building for our church to worship in.—C. Rose Halstead, pastor.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHRISTIAN?

(Continued from page 7)

Christ, to accept His teachings, to love as He loved, to live as He lived, and to find in Him a spiritual dynamic. It will mean a change of heart, a spiritual rebirth, being born again, an enlightenment of the mind which will produce a beautiful character, loving service, and an intelligent vision. Thus He will enable us to discard the evil and build the good in the earth.

To be a Christian is to forsake this world and all its allurements and follow the Christ of Calvary, to forsake sin and accept His righteousness and walk holy and blameless before Him by His Spirit.

REPORTS

(Continued from page 7)
conference which convened January 30 through February 2.

We were indeed glad to have Rev. H. L. Chesser, the Assistant General Overseer of the Northwest District, present for this prayer conference. His messages were inspiring and his instructions were timely for all.

Those contributing to the preaching of the Word, besides Brother Chesser, were: Brother W. H. Godwin, state

overseer; Brothers M. L. Lowe, Noel Lowe, J. J. Kissner, Ed. Beckman, Preston Sanders, Anton Meyer, Glen Clark, Herman Liab, Joseph Wiggins, and Sister Joseph Wiggins. Sister Vleiman conducted a good lively testimony service. The Lord blessed His people many times during this prayer conference. The Holy Ghost gave out two messages. In one service the Lord dealt so forcibly that some voluntarily rushed to the altar to renew their consecration vows, after Brother Glen Clark had preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost.

Our pastors and evangelists left this meeting with a greater determination, we believe, than ever before to go out and win souls for the Master. The purpose of this prayer conference was to renew our vision of getting people to God, and reconsecrate ourselves to the Lord, and realize in a greater way the importance of prayer in our work.

We thank God for the good fellowship that prevailed between our ministry and our laity. There have been two churches organized in Montana since the Assembly and we have asked the Lord for four more. We believe this prayer conference will be the means of our vision being realized, at least partly. May the memories of this prayer conference long live in the minds and hearts of the people of Montana.—Convention clerk.

News From Powderly, Ala.

A five weeks' revival came to a close Sunday night, February 4, with Rev. Archie Luke as evangelist. He was assisted in the special singing by his wife, Sister Jimmie Luke, and his brother Gene Luke. The older members tell us this was one of the greatest revivals the church has ever experienced. The evangelistic party and church worked hard and prayed much. Unity, fellowship, and love prevailed throughout the revival. There were fifteen saved, eleven sanctified, eleven filled with the Holy Ghost, and ten added to the church—eight new members and two by transfer. This makes a total of fourteen additions to the church since the Assembly and seven others have requested their transfer.

Each department of the church has made wonderful progress this year. All previous records have been broken, such as Y.P.E. attendance and offerings, Sunday School attendance and offerings, new members, tithes, etc. The Y.P.E. just recently turned in to

the church treasury \$100 and expects to turn another \$100 this month. The L.W.W.B. recently turned in \$100 and expected to turn in another this month. The Sunday School has turned over to the treasury \$700 since the Assembly and has another \$200 to turn in now.

Plans are being made to erect a nice new brick church and parsonage in the city limits of Birmingham, about two miles from the present location, as soon as material is available, which we trust is soon. Five lots have already been purchased at the cost of \$2,000 to build on. Half of this amount has been paid and we now have \$2,000 in the treasury. All the honor and praise be to God and the good people of Powderly and vicinity. We have a band of good, loyal, hard-working saints here to labor with, and favor is being gained with outsiders. All who read this please pray for my healing. — Morris Wiggins, pastor.

We Sat Together in Heavenly Places

The third district fellowship service of the LaFollette, Tenn., district convened at Jellico, Tenn., January 27, with Rev. Howard McGee, district pastor, and Rev. Nelson Russell, host pastor, in charge.

From the beginning of the service until the last there seemed to be a good interest as every pastor had a good report to make, and it seems that these fellowship services have caused us to learn to know one another and helped us to become better laborers together with God. Through the testimonies and preached Word we were made to sit together in heavenly places and the spirit and zeal received from these services are making us believe we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us.

We appreciate the ability and interest which our district pastor has taken in the work, which is proving successful as each service convenes. An offering was taken for our district convention which amounted to \$25. The service closed with the Lord's supper and feet washing. Pray for this district.—Nelson Russell.

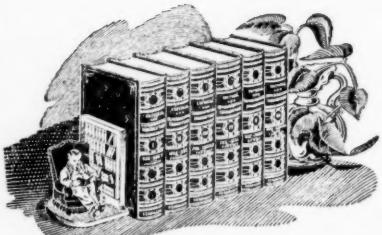
REV. AND MRS. W. F. BRYANT

(Continued from page 3)
their last days the happiest and best days of all their lives.

They would appreciate a card or letter from each one who reads this story.

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